

PRELIMINARY STUDIES OF PITCAIRNIA

IN THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN

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This study is by no means intended to be a monograph of the genus Pitcairnia in the eastern Caribbean. Rather, based on extensive recent collections and field observations, it is an attempt to circumscribe the taxa more accurately and help to eliminate where possible the innumerable misidentifications and misleading synonymies, which are characteristic of these formerly inadequately known species. Thus hopefully making future studies and collections more meaningful. All too frequently we have been forced to place too much emphasis on fragmentary specimens without having any understanding of individual or population variability. Keys made from such specimens are inevitably cumbersome and extremely artificial (even erroneous at times), with little meaning in regard to the actual range of variability of a species.

The ideal method, of course, is to study the plants in the field under varying ecologies throughout its range of distribution. For only then can incomplete specimens be understood and placed in their proper places. Furthermore illustrations based on cultivated plants in European Gardens of the last century are not only subject to the artist's ability to observe intimate details but to his whimsy as well. Source data from cultivated material cannot always be relied upon, for once a cultivated plant is identified with an earlier collection the source of that earlier collection frequently becomes tied to the second, if formerly unknown or dubious. The genus Pitcairnia has been carefully studied in Puerto Rico, Dominica, Martinique and Grenada. Additional information is based on literature and available herbarium material.

As was emphasized in another paper on Variation and Taxonomy of Pitcairnia (*Brittonia* 21(1):83-90. 1969), certain classical characters used in distinguishing between taxa of Pitcairnia in the West Indies, i.e. leaf width, pedicel length etc., are much too variable even within local populations to be of any taxonomic value. For example P. angustifolia which ranges from Puerto Rico to Grenada, (mostly on exposed rocks at lower elevations) is extremely variable in the branching of the inflorescence and the width of the leaves. It most commonly has a fairly highly branched, often thrice branched, inflorescence. However plants with a simple inflorescence may be found in the mountains

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of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The leaves of P. angustifolia may vary in width from as little as 10 mm to as much as 47 mm in a single population. The narrower leaves occurring on plants in very exposed situations and the wider leaves being produced in moist shade. The distinction between species exhibiting dimorphic leaves and those lacking dimorphic leaves has proven to be completely erroneous. The spinose sterile rosettes have rarely been collected and even more rarely appear on herbarium sheets although every Pitcairnia collected thus far in the author's studies has had spinose sterile rosettes. These are immediately obvious to anyone attempting to collect living material for cultivation.

There appear to be at least six distinct species of Pitcairnia occurring on the islands between Puerto Rico and Trinidad. Pitcairnia integrifolia, P. angustifolia, P. sulphurea and P. micotrinensis, the latter herein described for the first time, are easily characterized and occur in fairly well defined ecological habitats. However P. bifrons from St. Kitts and Guadeloupe has not been adequately studied and may in fact comprise two taxa.

Pitcairnia spicata, has long been an enigma. Almost any plant with a spicate inflorescence has at one time or another been identified with this name. The species apparently is however restricted to Martinique and has in fact proven to be even more of an enigma now that it has been typified. This species is typically spicate of inflorescence and is a characteristic plant of the moist ash slopes and rocky peaks of Mt. Pelee. Further down the slopes inflorescences with small lateral branches may be found and on the dry coastal rock both spicate and slightly branched inflorescences may occur. In addition, the floral bracts of the high elevation forms are long and conspicuous where those at lower elevations may be quite variable. Observations in the field, have led me to believe that there has possibly been extensive hybridization and introgression in the remote past with a closely allied species, possibly P. angustifolia.

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KEY TO SPECIES OF PITCAIRNIA OF THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN & JAMAICA

- A. Upper portion of the leaf sheath glabrous abaxially; floral pedicels 9-3⁴ (7-36) mm long; endemic, Jamaica. P. bromelifolia.
- AA. Upper portion of the leaf sheath densely lepidote abaxially; floral pedicels 4-15 (3-17) mm long;
- B. Inflorescence simple (sparsely branched in P. spicata); flowers crowded; the lowermost floral bracts more than 6 mm broad; floral pedicels and ovaries densely lepidote at anthesis;
- C. Leaf blades glabrous abaxially, except at the base and apex; flowers strongly decurved following anthesis; petals more than 11 mm wide; endemic, Dominica. 6. P. micotrinensis.
- CC. Leaf blades densely lepidote abaxially; flowers not strongly decurved following anthesis; petals less than 10 mm wide;
- D. Floral bracts in the upper $\frac{1}{4}$ of the flowering portion more than 1⁴ mm long; petals more than 7 mm wide;
- E. Sepals glabrous to glabrescent at anthesis, acute or rounded apically; leaf base margins serrate (occasionally with few teeth); petals red-scarlet; St. Kitts & Guadeloupe. 4. P. bifrons.
- EE. Sepals covered with numerous irregular multicellular hairs at anthesis, acuminate to attenuate apically; leaf base margins entire; petals cream-colored to yellow; endemic, St. Vincent. 5. P. sulphurea.
- DD. Floral bracts in the upper $\frac{1}{4}$ of the flowering portion less than 13 mm long; petals less than 6 mm wide, bright red to scarlet; endemic(?), Martinique. 3. P. spicata.
- BB. Inflorescence much branched (rarely simple); flowers widely spaced; lowermost floral bracts less than 5 (6) mm broad; floral pedicels and ovaries lightly lepidote to glabrescent at anthesis;
- F. Leaf sheath strongly serrate; leaf blade 13-30 (10-47) mm wide; petals 42-52 (40-56) mm long, 6-8 mm wide; sepals neither slender nor attenuate; petals always appendaged; Puerto Rico and Lesser Antilles. 1. P. angustifolia.
- FF. Leaf sheath entire (occasionally toothed in transitional leaves); leaf blade 5-15 (18) mm wide; petals 35-40 (45) mm long, 5-5.5 mm wide; sepals apex long slender attenuate; petals naked or appendaged; Trinidad and Venezuela. 2. P. integrifolia.

1. PITCAIRNIA ANGUSTIFOLIA [Solander in] Aiton, Hort. Kew 1:401. 1789. (non Hepetis angustifolia Sw. 1788).
 TYPE: VIRGIN ISLANDS; St. Croix, J. Ryan s.n. (HOLOTYPE: BM; photo US).
- P. latifolia [Solander in] Aiton, Hort. Kew 1:401. 1789. Type: Anderson s.n. in hort. Kew (HOLOTYPE: BM; photo US).
- P. ramosa Jacqin f. Eclog. Pl. 1:154. 1816. Type: Illust. in Eclog. Pl. pl. 79 (as P. furfuracea). 1809.
- P. platyphylla Schrader, Blumenb. 26. 1827. Type: Illust. in Andrews Bot. Repos. t. 322 (as P. latifolia). 1803.
- P. redouteana Schultes f. in Roemer and Schultes, Syst. Veg. 7(2):1243. 1830. Type Illust. in Redouté, Lil. 2:pl. 76. (as P. angustifolia). 1804.
- P. gracilis Mez. DC. Monogr. Phan. 9:407. 1896. Type: Guadeloupe, L'Herminier s.n. (HOLOTYPE: G; photo US).
- Hepetis gracilis (Mez) Mez, DC. Monogr. Phan. 9:973. 1896.
- H. latifolia (Aiton) Mez, DC. Monogr. Phan. 9:974. 1896.
- H. platyphylla (Schrader) Mez, DC. Monogr. Phan. 9:974. 1896

Plants 0.5-1.5 m tall, acaulescent or with very short obscure rhizomes; leaves persistent, dimorphic, those of mature rosettes 5-12 dm long, arching with pendulous apices; sheaths upper portion densely lepidote abaxially, the margins armed with conspicuous dark corneous teeth; blades linear-lanceolate serrate to subentire (or entire) throughout their greater length, 13-30(10-47) mm wide at the widest point, densely covered abaxially with a continuous layer of coalesced fimbriate silvery scales, rarely glabrescent; inflorescence erect or ascending, usually twice or thrice branched, rarely simple, variously floccose-lepidote to glabrescent; branches laxly flowered; scape-bracts serrate, foliaceous, exceeding the internodes basally but often shorter above; primary bracts like the upper scape bracts; floral bracts narrowly triangular linear-lanceolate 4-12(3-18) mm long by 2-4.5(-6) mm broad, those of the upper 1/3 of the inflorescence 3-12 mm long; flowers erect or ascending at anthesis; pedicels slender, lightly lepidote at anthesis, 4-14(3-17) mm long; sepals 15-23(13-24) mm long, acute to rounded apiculate apically; petals red, 42-52(40-56) mm long by 6-8 mm wide, appendaged inside near the base; ovary lightly lepidote to glabrescent at anthesis.

Distribution: Mostly lower elevations Puerto Rico to Grenada.

Specimens examined:

PUERTO RICO: Luquillo Mts., Bañadero, Apr. 1883, Eggers 1239 (US); June 1885, Sintenis 1586 (US); Monte Florida, Juncos, Aug. 1885, Sintenis 2564 (US); Cayey, Rio Morillos, Oct. 1885, Sintenis 2270 (US); Candelaria, Nov. 1899, Goll 267 (US); Coamo Rd., Peñon, Nov. 1899, Goll 633 (US); Aquirre, June 1901, Underwood & Griggs 418 (US); Yanco, July 1901, Underwood & Griggs 644 (US); Vega Baja, 1912, Stevenson & Johnston 456 (US); Bayamon,

Aug. 1913, Stevenson & Johnston 911 (US); July 1968, Read 2053 (US); Hato Arriea, Arecibo, Mar. 1914, Britton & Cowell 1981 (US); Rio Cubuy, Sierra de Naguabo, July 1914, Shafer 3162 (US); Utuado, Mar. 1915, Britton 5152 (US); Maricao, Apr. 1935, Sargent 419 (US); San German, Apr. 1935, Sargent 443 (US); El Yunque, July 1938, Sargent 557 (US); Rio Grande, June 1968, Read 2049 (US); Vieques Island, Cerro Ventana, Feb. 1914, Shafer 2877 (US).

VIRGIN ISLANDS: St. Thomas; Cowells Hill, Oct. 1881, Eggers s.n. (US); Water Island, Jan.-Feb. 1913, Britton & Schafer 135 (US); Tortola; Road town to Sea Cow Bay, Feb. 1913, Britton & Schafer 696 (US); St. Croix, 1777, Ryan s.n. (HOLOTYPE, EM; photo US).

ANTIGUA: Wullschlaegel 559 (GOET, photo US); Boggy Peak, May 1937, Box 807 (US).

MONTSERRAT: Rendezvous, Feb. 1907, Schafer 440 (US); Soufrière Feb. 1907, Schafer 688 (US); Jan. 1950, Velez 3704 (US).

GUADELOUPE: Baines Jaunes, Matouba, July 1935, Stehlé 226 (US); June 1937, Stehlé 1766 (US); Honélmont, June 1935, Stehlé 593 (US); Sainte Rose, June 1937, Stehlé 1804 (US); Chutes du Carbet, July 1937, Stehlé 2034 (US); Lamentin, Mar. 1938, Questel 778 (US); Les Saintes, June 1940, Questel 1685 (US); Questel 778 A & B (US); without locality, L'Herminier s.n. (HOLOTYPE of P. gracilis Mez, G; photo US).

DOMINICA: Soufrière Valley, Mar. 1933, Cooper 194 (US); Castle Bruce Rd., June 1958, Solheim 5609 (US); Roseau Valley, May-June 1950, Howard 11740 (US); Near Trafalgar Falls, Apr. 1964, Ernst 1083 (US); Roseau to Fresh Water Lake, May 1968, Read 2020 (US); Mero, May 1968, Read 2022 (US); Northeast coast, May 1968, Read 2030 (US); without locality, July 1881, Imray s.n. (K; photo US); Bout Sable Bay, St. David Parish, Nov. 1964, Nicholson 1990 (US); Grande Savanne, St. Joseph Parish, July 1965, Ernst 1894 (US); Morne Couronne, St. Joseph Parish, June 1965, Webster 13222 (US); Morne Trois Pitons, St. Paul Parish, Aug. 1965, Ernst 2047 (US); Pont Cassé, St. Paul Parish, July 1964, Wilbur et al 7739 (US); Mango hole Bay, St. Andrews Parish, Wilbur et al 8038 (US); Locality omitted, June 1967, Wasshausen & Ayensu 366 (US); June 1958, Solheim & Solheim 5609 (US); Jan.-Mar. 1933, Cooper 194 (US); Jan 1932, Fairchild 2723 (US).

MARTINIQUE: South coast, Sept. 1937, Stehlé 2302 (US); Casa Pilota, May 1950, Howard 11715 (US).

SAINT LUCIA: The Morne Castries, May 1945, Beard 1016 (US); Hot Springs, Oct. 1949, Velez 3323 (US); Le Toc to Cul de Sac Bay Apr.-May 1950, Howard 11379 (US); Soufrière, Apr.-May 1950, Howard 11539 (US); Apr.-May 1950, Howard 11572 (US); Marigot Bay,

Apr. 1959, Cowan 1577 (US).

SAINT VINCENT: Liberty Lodge, Dec. 1889, Eggers 6712 (US); Kingstown, Apr. 1947, Morton 4752 (US); Jan. 1890, Krause 3499 (B, photo US); Fort Charlotte, May 1947, Morton 5726 (US); Oct. 1949, Vélez 3356 (US).

GRENADINES: Union Island, Mar.-Apr. 1950, Howard 10984 (US); Bequia, Mar.-Apr. 1950, Howard 11255 (US).

GRENADA: Dec. 1889, Eggers 6274 (US); St. George, Nov. 1904, Bradway s.n. (US); Grand Etang, Sept. 1945, Beard 1191 (US); Victoria, Feb.-Mar. 1950, Howard 10709 (US); St. Georges to Grand Etang, May 1968, Read 2039 (US).

2. PITCAIRNIA INTEGRIFOLIA Ker-Gawler, Bot. Mag. 36: t. 1462. 1812.

TYPE: None known; Bot. Mag. t.1462 is a suitable Lectotype. P. tenuis Mez, DC. Monogr. Phan. 9:421. 1896. Type: "Columbia" [Sic] Venezuela, 1844, Moritz 451 (HOLOTYPE: B; ISOTYPE: BM; photos US).

Hepetis integrifolia (Ker-Gawler) Mez, DC. Monogr. Phan. 9:974. 1896.

H. tenuis (Mez) Mez, DC. Monogr. Phan. 9:974. 1896.

Pitcairnia hartmannii Mez, Repert. Sp. Nov. 16:8. 1919.

Type: "Insula Trinidad Venezuela," 7.4.1911, Hartmann s.n. (B; photo US).

Plants 0.5-1.0 m tall, acaulescent or very shortly caulescent; leaves persistent, dimorphic; those of mature rosettes to 9 dm long, arching with attenuate, pendulous apices; sheaths upper portion densely lepidote abaxially, the margins mostly entire except for transitional leaves; blades linear-lanceolate mostly entire to base, 5-15(-18) mm wide at the widest point, densely to scattered lepidote abaxially; inflorescence slender, erect, twice branched; branches laxly flowered; scape bracts foliaceous, entire to rarely lightly serrate, about equaling internodes; primary bracts inconspicuous; floral bracts lanceolate, 7-17(6-24) mm long by less than 5(-6) mm broad; flowers spreading; pedicels slender, lightly lepidote to glabrescent at anthesis, 9-15 mm long; sepals 11-17(-20) mm long, slender attenuate apically; petals red, 35-40(-45) mm long, 5.0-5.5 mm wide, naked or appendaged inside near the base; ovary lightly lepidote to glabrescent at anthesis.

Distribution: Mostly lower elevations, northeastern Venezuela and northern Trinidad.

Specimens examined:

VENEZUELA: Sucre Cumana 1842, Funck 58 (K; photo US); Cristobal Colon, Jan.-Feb. 1923, Broadway 469 (US); Puerto de Hierro, Aug. 1961, Aristeguieta & Agostini 4764 (US); Rio Grande to Mejillones, Paria Peninsula, Aug. 1961, Aristeguieta & Agostini 4787 (US).

TRINIDAD: Carenage, Mar. 1920, Britton & Hazen 233 (US); Chacachacare, Nov. 1958, Aitken 288 & 289 (US); Chaguaramas, Apr. 1921, Britton 2715 (US); Aug. 1959, Webster & Miller 9941 (US); Lower Platanal Valley, Pittendrigh 1503 (US); San Souci, Jul. 1955, Aitken & Downs 65 (US); Saffron, Sept. 1947, Friend 220 (US); Locality ?, June 1903, Johnson 109 (US).

3. PITCAIRNIA SPICATA (Lamarck) Mez, DC. Monogr. Phan. 9:392. 1896.

Bromelia spicata Lamarck, Encyl. Method. 1:146. 1783.

TYPE: MARTINIQUE; No specimen cited but the illustration by Plumier, Bromelia pyramidata ... in Mus. D'Hist. Nat. Paris (photo US), is a suitable lectotype. (See also; ed. Burman 1757, Pl. Amer. fasc. 3, p. 52, t. 63).

Hepetis spicata (Lamarck) Mez, DC. Monogr. Phan. 9:974. 1896.

Plants 1-1.5 m tall, acaulescent or very shortly caulescent; leaves persistent, dimorphic; those of mature rosettes 5-12 dm long, arching with pendulous apices; sheaths upper portion densely lepidote abaxially, the margins serrate, rarely entire in some few transitional leaves; blades linear-lanceolate mostly entire throughout their length, 16-25(-30) mm broad at broadest point, covered abaxially with a continuous layer of coalesced fimbriate silvery scales; scape stout, erect or ascending; inflorescence mostly simple, spicate, occasionally with small lateral branches when at low elevations, white lepidote to glabrescent; scape bracts entire; spikes densely flowered; lowermost floral bracts more than 6 mm broad by 16-38(6-45) mm long, those in the upper $\frac{1}{4}$ of the flowering portion less than 13 mm long; flowers not strongly decurved following anthesis; pedicels (6-)8-11 mm long, densely lepidote at anthesis; sepals 17-20(16-23) mm long, rounded, apiculate apically; petals red, 42-47(32-48) mm long, 5-5.5 mm broad, appendaged inside near the base; ovary densely lepidote at anthesis.

Distribution: Mostly high elevations, apparently restricted to the slopes of Mt. Pelee, Martinique.

Specimens examined:

MARTINIQUE: Hort. Berol. Dec. 1842. (Mus. Bot. Berol. Film Nr. 88875; photo US); (Mus. Bot. Berol. Film Nr. 88876; photo US);

Isert 1787 (C; photo US); Trois Ilets, Sept. 1937, Stehlé 2302 (US); Casa Pilota, May 1950, Howard 11715 (US); Three miles north-west of Fort de France on road to Case-Pilote, semi-xerophytic, May 1968, Read 2031 (US); Road from St. Pierre to Morne Rouge, May 1968, Read 2032 (US); Upper slopes of Mt. Pelee near crater, May 1968, Read 2033 (US); July 1939, Egler & Seifriz 39-82 (NY).

4. PITCAIRNIA BIFRONS (Lindley) R. W. Read comb. nov.

?Bilbergia bifrons Lindley, Journ. Hort. Soc. London 8:54. 1853.

TYPE: DeJonghe in Hort. Soc. London s.n. (CGE; photo US) without locality.

Pitcairnia bracteata [Dryander in] Aiton, Hort. Kew. ed. 2, 2:202. 1811. nom. illeg. Type: Illust. in Redouté, Les Liliacees, pl. 73. (as P. latifolia). 1804.

P. commutata Regel, Gartenflora 16:289, t. 557. 1867. Type: Illust. in Regel, Gartenflora t. 557. 1867.

P. bracteata var. commutata (Regel) Regel, Gartenflora 17:8. 1868.

P. spicata forma latior Smith, Phytologia 15: 196. 1967. Type: St. Kitts, June 1950, Howard 11945 (US).

Plants less than 1 m tall in flower, with very short obscure rhizomes or none; leaves probably dimorphic although spiny rosettes not known in collections; leaves of mature rosettes over 7 dm long, entire; sheaths upper portion densely lepidote abaxially, the margins serrate, rarely with few teeth; blades narrowly lanceolate, attenuate, entire throughout, 20-32 mm broad at the broadest point, densely covered abaxially with a continuous layer of coalesced silvery adpressed scales; scape erect, always simple, densely flowered; scape bracts entire; floral bracts ovate to ovate-lanceolate 27-56 mm long, (5-7)8-12 mm wide, those of the upper $\frac{1}{4}$ of the inflorescence 14-32 mm long; flowers divergent following anthesis; pedicels (2-3)4-13 mm long, densely lepidote at anthesis; sepals 20-25 mm long, lanceolate, acute to rounded apically, glabrous to glabrescent at anthesis; petals reddish-scarlet (yellow? in Questel 1662), 37-52 mm long, ca. 8 mm wide, appendaged inside near the base; ovary densely floccose-lepidote at anthesis.

Distribution: St. Kitts and Guadeloupe.

Specimens examined:

ST. KITTS: Dos-d'Ans (Dodans) Pond, June 1950, Howard 11945 (HOLOTYPE of P. spicata forma latior Smith, US; ISOTYPE, GH); Summit of Mt. Misery, Sept.-Oct. 1901, Britton & Cowell 552 (NY).

GADELOUPE: Soufrière; 1893, Duss 3315 (GH;NY;US); Feb. 1935, Stehlé 1 (US); Aug. 1939, Questel 1662 (US).

5. PITCAIRNIA SULPHUREA Andrews, Bot. Repos. 4:pl. 249. 1802.
 TYPE: ST. VINCENT; Anderson s.n. (BM).
P. bracteata var. σ [Dryander in] Aiton, Hort. Kew.
 ed. 2, 2:202. 1811. (Based on P. sulphurea Andrews).
P. bracteata var. sulphurea (Andrews) Ker-Gawler, Bot. Mag.
 34:t. 1416. 1811.
P. spicata var. sulphurea (Andrews) Mez, DC. Monogr. Phan.
 9:393. 1896.
Hepetis spicata var. sulphurea (Andrews) Mez, DC. Monogr.
 Phan. 9:974. 1896. (as "sulfurea").
Tillandsia vincentiensis Krause, Beihefte Bot. Centralbl.
 32(2):337. 1914. Type: St. Vincent; Souffrière, 1890,
E.H.L. Krause 3498 (B; photo US).
Pitcairnia spicata forma pallida L.B. Smith, Phytologia 15:
 196. 1967. Type: St. Vincent; Apr. 1947, C.V. Morton
5252 (US).

Plants 1 m tall, acaulescent or with a short obscure rhizome; leaves persistent, most likely dimorphic, those of mature rosettes 1 m or more long, entire (or rarely slightly serrate toward the base); sheaths upper portion densely lepidote abaxially, the margins entire; blades lanceolate-attenuate, 18-42 mm broad at the widest point, densely covered abaxially with a continuous layer of silvery coalesced scales; scape stout, erect, unbranched, densely flowered; scape bracts mostly entire (rarely serrate); floral bracts narrowly triangular, 30-55 mm long, (4.5-)6-11 mm wide, the lowermost exceeding the sepals, those of the upper $\frac{1}{4}$ of the inflorescence 15-25 mm long; flowers spreading following anthesis; pedicels slender, densely lepidote at anthesis, 7-11 mm long; sepals narrowly lanceolate, 21-25 mm long, with numerous irregular multicellular hairs at anthesis, acuminate-attenuate apically; petals yellow (to white), 40-45 mm long, 7-9.5 mm wide, appendaged inside near the base; ovary densely lepidote at anthesis.

Distribution: St. Vincent, endemic.

Specimens examined:

Souffrière, Oct. 1949, Vélez 3392 (US); Apr. 1950, Howard 11220 (US); without locality; Feb. 1932, Fairchild 2767 (US); May-July 1890, H.H. & G.W. Smith 624 (K; photo US); Sept. 1889, H.H. & G.W. Smith 856 (Columbia Univ.; photo US); Feb. 1890, Krause 3498 (B, TYPE of Tillandsia vincentiensis Krause; photo US); Apr. 1947, Morton 5252 (US, TYPE of Pitcairnia spicata forma pallida L.B. Smith); Mar. 1962, Cooley 8558 (GH).

6. PITCAIRNIA MICOTRINENSIS R. W. Read sp. nov.

Species insignis floribus suis valde decurvatis post anthesin, a speciebus nobis notis bene distincta; scapo simplicissimo;

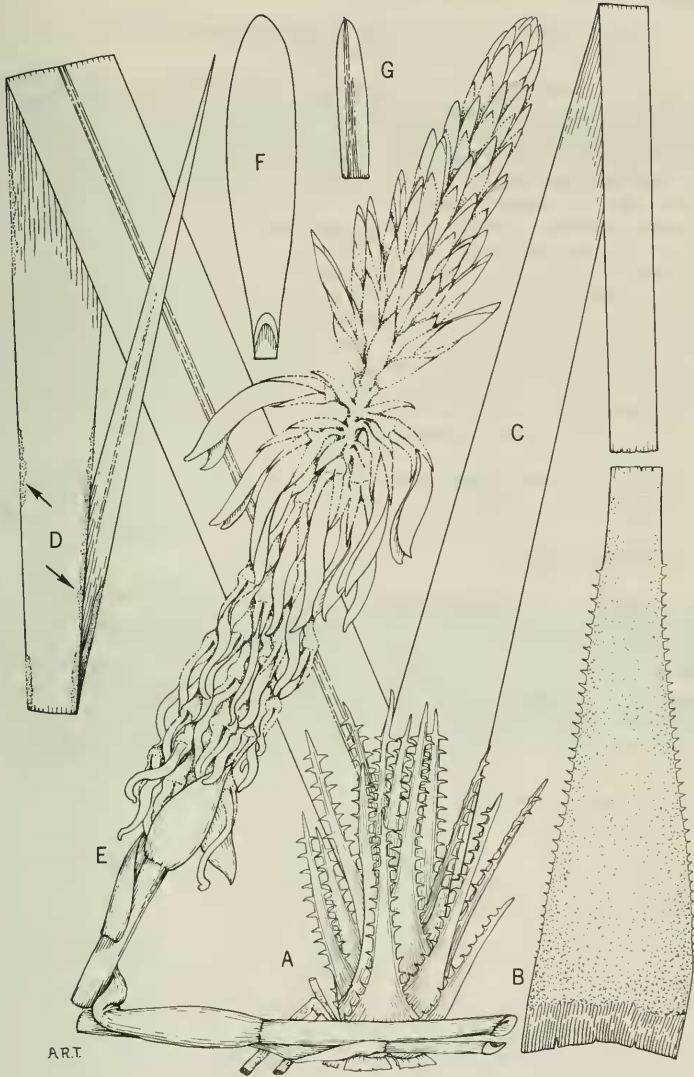


Plate I. *Pitcairnia micotrinensis* R. W. Read, sp. nov.

foliis glabris, integris; calycibus viridis, lepidotis dense, et corollis flavis vel persicinis.

TYPE: DOMINICA; R.W. Read & W.R. Ernst 2018 (US).

Plants acaulescent or with stout stems to 20 cm long; leaves dimorphic, those of the sterile offshoots dark corneous barbed spines 4-10 cm long; leaves of mature rosettes to 1.5 m long; leaf sheaths densely lepidote abaxially except for the basal 1-2 cm, the margins strongly saw-toothed; leaf blades narrowly lanceolate, attenuate, entire, 28-37 mm wide at the widest point, glabrous abaxially except for a narrow line of scales along the upper margins and apex; scape stout, erect to 1.5 m tall, densely flowered, arachnoid lepidote throughout; scape bracts entire; floral bracts lanceolate, 32-40 mm long, 7-14 mm wide, those of the upper 1/3 of the inflorescence 16-20 mm long; flowers spreading at anthesis but strongly decurved immediately following; pedicels 5-10 mm long, densely lepidote at anthesis; sepals 19-29 mm long, rounded apiculate apically; petals lanceolate, yellow through peach colored, 45-55 mm long, ca. 13 mm wide, appendaged inside near the base; ovary densely lepidote at anthesis.

Distribution: Dominica, open ridges and mountain summits throughout the island, endemic.

Specimens examined:

Laudat, 1903, Lloyd 311 (NY); Morne Trois Pitons, Aug. 1938, Hodge 319 (GH, NY); Sept. 1962, Kimber 976 (WIS); July 1964, Wilbur et al 8107 (US); Feb. 1966, Chambers 2759 (US); Valley of Desolation, Mar. 1940, Hodge & Hodge 1950 (GH); Morne Diablotin, June 1965, Webster 13369 (US); Ridges above Fresh Water Lake, May 1968, Read & Ernst 2017 (BH,US); 2018 (HOLOTYPE:US); 2019 (US); without locality; Sept. 1888, Ramage s.n. (K; photo US).